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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-88 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 S50-00 PH-09 PA-00
INR-00 7034

081907Z JUL 88

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6786
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6786
THE WHITE HOUSE

INFO AMCONSUL HALIFAX
AMCONSUL QUEBEC
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
AMCONSUL TORONTO
AMCONSUL DENVER
AMCONSUL CALGARY
AMCONSUL VANCOUVER

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED by RAW DATE 11/3/88

RELEASE () DECLASSIFY
 EXCISE () DECLASSIFY in PART
 DENY () Non-responsive info.

FOI, EO or PA exemptions _____
TS authority to:
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() DOWNGRADE TS to () S or () C, OADR

UNCLAS OTTAWA 04725

FOR PG /DC/PA/PAPER/FA/PGM/PN/10R NEWS CA/EU
STATE FOR EUR/AF/AM/PA
WHITE HOUSE FOR NSC/EUROPE - RENTSCHLER

E.O. 12958 N/A

TAGS: SOPN, CA, CDD

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION -- CHEMICAL WARFARE/"YELLOW RAIN"

1. OTTAWA CITIZEN, JULY 7, CAPITAL'S ONLY ENGLISH-LANGUAGE
DAILY, FEATURED COMMENTARY ON "DANGERS OF YELLOW RAIN" ON
THEIR OPED PAGE. ARTICLE, BY THEIR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
SPECIALIST, MOHAMMED AZIZ ALI KHAN, WAS A REVIEW OF RE-
CENTLY RELEASED CANADIAN REPORT ON USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS
IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND A BOOK BY TWO BRITISH JOURNALISTS,
ROBERT HARRIS AND JEREMY FAXMAN, "A HIGHER FORM OF KILLING:
THE SECRET STORY OF GAS AND GERM WARFARE."

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EXCERPTS FOLLOW:

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HEADLINE: "A CHILLING GLIMPSE AT DANGERS OF YELLOW
RAIN"

"THE CANADIAN REPORT ON THE POSSIBLE USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS BY VIETNAMESE TROOPS AGAINST LAOS AND CAMBODIA AS WELL AS AGAINST FARMERS IN THAILAND SHOULD HELP FOCUS WORLD ATTENTION ON THIS GRAVE PROBLEM....

"THE CANADIAN REPORT HELPS FOCUS ATTENTION ON THIS ASPECT OF WARFARE AT A TIME WHEN THE UNITED NATIONS DISARMAMENT SESSION IS CONCENTRATING LARGELY ON THE HORRORS OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

"ONE REASON WHY CHEMICAL WEAPONS ARE IGNORED IS THAT CHEMICAL WARFARE WAS OUTLAWED BY A 1925 TREATY WHILE BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS WERE BANNED UNDER A 1975 CONVENTION. PEOPLE FEEL THEY ARE SAFE FROM CHEMICAL WEAPONS, AND THAT IT'S UNLIKELY SUCH ARMS WILL BE USED IN FUTURE CONFLICTS.

"THEY MAY BE WRONG. THE U.S. CONGRESS HAS RECENTLY AUTHORIZED PRODUCTION OF A NEW GENERATION OF NERVE GAS. THE RATIONALE IS THAT THOUGH THE AMERICANS HAVE 150,000 TONS OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS, THE SOVIET UNION HAS EIGHT TIMES THAT MUCH AND IT HAS 14 PLANTS STILL CHURNING THEM OUT....

"THAT CHEMICAL WARFARE REMAINS A GRAVE THREAT IS BROUGHT OUT FORCEFULLY BY TWO BRITISH JOURNALISTS, ROBERT MARSH AND JEREMY PAXMAN, IN THEIR RECENTLY PUBLISHED BOOK, A HIGHER FORM OF KILLING: THE SECRET STORY OF GAS AND GERM WARFARE....

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"IT IS A SOBERING BOOK, CHILLING IN ITS REVELATIONS THAT SEVERAL TIMES DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR, THE TWO SIDES CAME CLOSE TO USING CHEMICAL WEAPONS....

"THE BOOK SUGGESTS THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THE RUSSIANS AND THEIR ALLIES USED SUCH WEAPONS IN AFGHANISTAN, LAOS AND CAMBODIA, BUT ON A LIMITED SCALE. THE AUTHORS BELIEVE THERE IS REAL DANGER OF A NEW ARMS RACE IN THIS FIELD, AND THEIR USE IN FUTURE WARS.

"THE BOOK SAYS: "IN THE PAST, GOVERNMENTS HAVE JUSTIFIED

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CONTINUING GAS AND GERM RESEARCH BY POINTING TO THE WEAPONS THEY BELIEVE THE ENEMY TO POSSESS. PLANS FOR CHEMICAL REARMAMENT IN THE WEST ARE ALREADY WELL ADVANCED. UNLESS DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATIONS SUDDENLY BEAR FRUIT, THE PRESENT CLIMATE OF SUSPICION MAY PROVIDE THE PERFECT CULTURE IN WHICH TO BREED A NEW GENERATION OF WEAPONS.¹

"IT IS A CHILLING PROSPECT."
SHELLENGER

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